

“ I WANT TO BE THE
BEST I CAN BE ”

Foróige - Meeting Youth Needs



Annual Review
2003-2004

Foróige - The Organisation

Foróige is a leading national voluntary youth organisation engaged in youth development and education. It is an organisation infused with ideals and values which form a rich philosophy of human growth and development, a philosophy based on a belief in the dignity and creativity of each individual person. The fundamental purpose of the organisation is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.

Foróige provides a comprehensive range of youth work services through the operation of Foróige Clubs, Local Youth Services, Local Youth Development Projects and Youth Information Centres. This multi-pronged approach enables the organisation to meet the developmental needs of young people in general and in particular circumstances to focus on vulnerable young people with specific needs.

FORÓIGE CLUBS

The Foróige Club is the basic unit of the organisation and consists of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years and adult leaders, in a ratio of approximately 10 to 1. There are 413 Foróige Clubs in Ireland, each of which is "owned" by its members. The Foróige Club enables young people to experience democracy at first hand through the election of their own club committee and the management and operation of the club in co-operation with their adult leaders.

LOCAL YOUTH SERVICES

These are locally based and enable their communities to foster youth development. They provide general youth work services to, and promote the development of, the various voluntary youth organisations. They also provide specialised services to vulnerable young people. Foróige operates four such Services: Tallaght Youth Service and Blanchardstown Youth Service, Dublin, Co Longford Youth Service and West Limerick Youth Service.

YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRES

These Centres provide a free, confidential information service to young people and adults on a wide range of youth-related topics. Foróige operates four such Centres. These are located in Tallaght and Blanchardstown in Dublin, in Donegal Town and in Castlebar, Co Mayo.

FORÓIGE OPERATED LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

These concentrate on the provision of specialised services directly to specifically targeted young people. They assist young people in developing confidence and communication skills and foster participation, collective action and the voluntary activity of young people within their communities. The Local Youth Development Projects are located in 14 counties around Ireland, in both urban and rural settings.

STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE

Foróige is governed by a National Council which determines its policy, and controls all business and affairs carried out by, or on behalf of the organisation. The National Council meets at least twice a year. It is made up of one Club Leader for each county where there are Foróige Clubs and four Reference Panel members elected by the Panel. The National Council elects, from among its Members, a National Executive which meets regularly and is accountable to the National Council.

THE REFERENCE PANEL

At Regional Conferences - held in 10 designated regions throughout the country for Club Chairpersons and Secretaries - 20 members are elected to form a Reference Panel. This Panel meets twice yearly and is designed to give members a direct input into the running of the organisation at national level. Four members of the Reference Panel are elected to the National Council.

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Foróige Clubs in a particular area may, with the approval of the National Council, form District Councils. Each Club may appoint two voting delegates to sit on the District Council. The functions of the District Councils include: exchanging ideas; co-ordinating and stimulating the activities of the Clubs; helping in the formation of new Clubs and making representations to the National Council and National Executive on matters relating to Foróige.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Foróige employs a full-time professional staff to assist and enable communities and voluntary youth workers in their youth work endeavours, and to work directly with young people as necessary and appropriate. The Organisation employs a total of 164 staff.

FORÓIGE

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Foreword

by the Minister for Youth Affairs, Síle de Valera, T.D.

I am delighted, as Minister for Youth Affairs, to provide a foreword to Foróige's Annual Review. I am continually impressed by the committed manner in which Foróige meets the ongoing challenges of modern youth work, both in urban and rural settings, and 2003 has been no exception.

I would like to congratulate Foróige for the tremendous work it has done through its many clubs, local youth services and local youth development projects over the past year. I read with interest the new Policy and Guidelines on 'Tobacco Alcohol & Drugs' launched in October 2003 and I feel that this will be of great value to all in the youth work sector. I was also impressed by the thought provoking report published last year in conjunction with the Centre for the Study of Human Development, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, 'Youth in a Changing Ireland'. The Study paints an accurate account of how the changing circumstances of Irish society and culture have shaped the lives of so many young people over the last fifty years and is a valuable study which will prove beneficial to parents and youth workers alike.

2004 was another landmark year in the youth sector in Ireland with the publication of the National Youth Work Development Plan 2003 - 2007 in August. Two priorities for 2003 were identified, they being the commencement of a comprehensive Child Protection Training Programme for the youth work sector and the appointment of an Assessor of Youth Work. Work on both of these priorities is well underway and I am pleased to say that an additional _500,000 has been made available in 2004 towards the further phased implementation of the Plan. This is in addition to the 1.2% increase already secured by me for the youth sector in 2004, bringing funding for the year to _28.75 million. I would like to assure Foróige and all those involved in youth work that I will continue to make every effort to secure funding for the youth sector.

I am extremely appreciative of the vital role that Foróige plays in representing the youth work sector on the National Youth Work Advisory Committee. This Committee is a valuable and important source of advice in relation to policy issues in the youth work area and I commend your organisation on its dedication and commitment to the work of this Committee.

Volunteerism and the voluntary sector lie at the heart of Irish Youth Work. The Taoiseach has said that 'voluntary activity forms the very core of all vibrant and inclusive societies', a sentiment which is echoed by all in public life. Ireland has a rich and varied tradition of



voluntary action and volunteering is a key aspect of community development. Volunteering is essential to the development of civic participation, social solidarity and individual development. The ongoing

maintenance of youth work services in Ireland would not be possible without the selfless work of volunteers. Volunteers today face numerous challenges and opportunities given the changing nature of Irish society on economic, political, technological and cultural fronts and I would like to thank all those volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to the youth of Ireland.

Ireland holds the EU Presidency, from January 2004 to June 2004, so it is an interesting and exiting time to be involved in the area of youth work. Work on youth issues is continuing during the Irish Presidency and I hosted a Youth Ministers' Conference in County Clare at the beginning of March. A large number of delegates, which included Ministers, Senior Officials, Non-Governmental Organisations and Young People from the 15 Member States and the 10 Acceding Countries, along with representatives of the EU Commission, discussed two themes; 'Young People and Politics' and 'Common Objectives on the second two priorities identified in the EU Commission's White Paper on Youth'. Without doubt, the success of the Conference is due in part to the role played by representatives of the National Youth Council of Ireland, including members of Foróige, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Foróige for their active involvement in the Conference.

Finally, I wish to thank you for the valuable contribution made by your organisation to youth work during this past year. I wish you every success in the coming year and I am confident that we will continue to have a fruitful working relationship.

Go n-éirigh go geal libh sa mbliain amach roimh,

Síle de Valera T.D.,
Minister for Youth Affairs

STEVI RUSSELL from Collan Foróige Club, Co. Louth and Foróige Reference Panel Member tells us what she thinks of the Reference Panel

"I think it's a great idea because young people really get the chance to have their ideas taken seriously - it's not adults discussing issues that they think are important to us, it's us deciding what we want to talk about and deciding how we can do something about it"

CLARE COYLE from Killygarry Foróige Club, Co. Cavan and Foróige Reference Panel Member, sums up what she gets out of being in Foróige

"It has really increased my confidence and given me the opportunity to meet new people. It has also given me a greater sense of responsibility, especially when organising interclub events when you have to communicate with other clubs so that your event will be a success."



Ann Mullins

Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige



As my term of office draws to a close, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride in Foróige and the many people who have worked so hard over the years to make us the strong and dynamic organisation that we are today. I am proud of the voluntary leaders who give so freely and energetically of their time in communities across the country, I am proud

of the members who have shown me on many occasions that the real wealth of Ireland lies firmly in the hearts of its' young people and I am proud of Foróige's dedicated body of staff who have given me invaluable help over the past two years.

I have had the privilege of being Chairperson during some of the greatest milestones in Foróige's history. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the organisation with many fantastic events, the most memorable of which was the unveiling of the Foróige Sculpture in Mooncoin, the birthplace of the organisation. I will never forget the sense of honour that I felt on that day as I stood in the Courtyard of Coláiste Cois Súire, with President Mary McAleese on one side and Seamus Doran, Foróige's first leader, on the other. We celebrated the rich history of our organisation and we also looked to the future with a knowing sense that our work is needed now more than ever.

I have always felt that one of Foróige's greatest strengths is in its ability to remain relevant and responsive to changes in modern

society and this year has been no exception. We became the first ever youth organisation to publish a fully comprehensive set of tobacco, alcohol and drugs guidelines; we established sub-committees on public relations, training and programmes and finance; we are developing a new volunteer recruitment policy and we published a highly acclaimed research paper entitled 'Youth in a Changing Ireland' in partnership with St. Patrick's college Drumcondra.

I have also had the honour that no other Chairperson has had, and that is to have worked with both former Director Michael B. Cleary and current CEO Séan Campbell. Séan is in his first year of office and is doing a wonderful job - his energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration to all of us, but the retirement of Michael B. Cleary was the end of an era in Foróige. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Michael once again for his vision, strength and for the very large part that he played in the moulding of Foróige into the organisation that it is today.

During my two years as Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige I have had the pleasure of seeing, at first hand, the beneficial effects that involvement in this organisation can have on young people. Our voluntary leaders are role models of the highest standard, they personify the term 'citizenship' in my eyes and I am grateful to be associated with their wonderful work. I would like to sincerely thank the members, leaders and staff with whom I have had the pleasure to have contact with over my term of office. It has been an honour to be chairperson of this organisation and it has been an experience that I will never forget. I wish my successor well.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

Séan Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of Foróige

LISA O'LEARY from Knockraha Foróige Club, Co. Cork and Foróige Reference Panel Member talks about her best Foróige Moment so far

"My single best Foróige moment so far was when I was elected onto the Reference Panel, but I have great moments every week in our club. We have just recently won a Youth Action Against Racism and Discrimination award for an intercultural project that we're involved in with other Foróige clubs in our area."

DI-SIEN CHAN from Hillview Foróige Club, Waterford and Foróige Reference Panel Member sums up what she loves about Foróige

"I love everything about it. A lot of opportunities have come out of it for me, recently myself and my friend were interviewed by the Irish Independent about teenagers against drugs and alcohol and from that we were featured on Beat FM, a radio station in Waterford. I also participated in the Youth Against Racism and Discrimination Project."

It gives me great pleasure to write my first annual review report as Chief Executive Officer of Foróige. I am mindful of the faith that the National Council of Foróige have placed in me and I assure you that I will do my utmost to repay their trust.

The last year has been a very interesting one in the life of Foróige. We have taken the first tentative steps to renew and re-energise the organisation - our goal being to leave us in the best possible position from which to fulfil our guiding purpose and philosophy.

The National Council of Foróige has established three sub-committees to look at what we believe to be the most important challenges facing the organisation. The first of these concerns finance and this committee is tasked with the job of formulating a strategy to secure the financial future of the organisation.

The second committee is examining the training and programme development capacity of the organisation and expects to have new and exciting proposals for training and resource materials in the near future for both leaders and staff.

The third committee is concerned with Public Relations and aims to develop and enhance the image and profile of Foróige, both internally and externally. All three committees have a hugely important role to play and I sincerely thank the leaders and staff involved.

Other highlights of the year included the publication of our Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, - Policy and Guidelines and a study entitled Youth in a Changing Ireland, in partnership with St. Patricks College, Drumcondra. We held a successful national training initiative for Foróige District Councils in February and we have undertaken an ambitious programme of in-service training for staff.



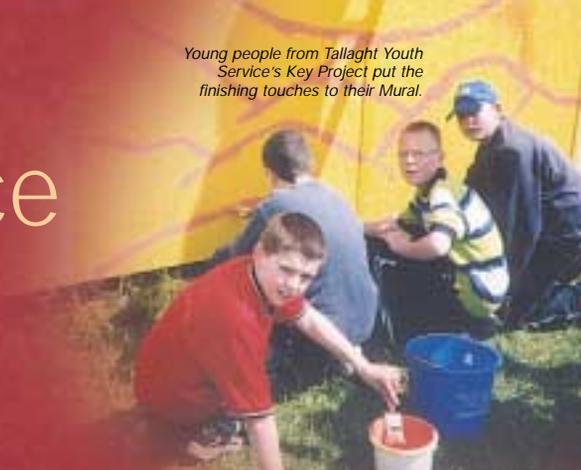
We have also introduced new recruiting procedures for leaders which are in line with best practice and aim to protect both young people and leaders alike.

The Citizenship Awards remain the jewel in the crown of Foróige and the awards ceremony held in Dublin's City Hall in October was an outstanding success. I was particularly delighted that this event also served to celebrate the great contribution that Foróige made to the Special Olympics World Games 2003.

I would like to thank the staff of Foróige for the skill, dedication and flexibility they have shown in coping with the challenges they face on a daily basis.

I would also like to pay tribute to the National Council of Foróige, and in particular the National Executive, for their support, guidance and overwhelming commitment to the organisation. They are shining examples of voluntary youth workers and are among the most inspiring people that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.

Tallaght Youth Service celebrates 21 years



Tallaght Youth Service celebrated its 21st anniversary in 2003. In 1982 Foróige was contracted by Co. Dublin VEC to set up the very first general youth service in Ireland, in the Blanchardstown and Tallaght areas of Dublin. In that year, Foróige employed one full-time youth officer in Tallaght, now 21 years later, there are 22 full-time and 2 part-time staff employed in Tallaght Youth Service and 9 associated projects. In 2003 there were over 6,000 Young People and 503 voluntary leaders involved in Youth Work through Tallaght Youth Service and associated projects. Gill Ryan, a Youth Information Officer with Tallaght Youth Service, gives a flavour of how they celebrated this milestone year.



Minister Sile de Valera presents the overall 'Community Spirit Award' to Foróige Club 23.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Community Spirit Awards. The presentation ceremony took place in May. Sile de Valera T.D, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science was guest speaker with Robbie Keane, the local football hero, making a special guest appearance and visiting all of the stands. 21 Clubs and groups from all over Tallaght carried out citizenship projects which were judged under four different

categories and the overall winner of the Awards - Foróige Club 23 in Ballycragh - was presented with a perpetual trophy.

The launch of the Centre for Lifelong Learning and Youth Services in Brookfield took place in February. This is a joint project with Co. Dublin VEC and houses a Youth Information Point (with public access computers), activity rooms, incorporating a kitchen and offices for three staff. The official opening was performed by Minister Sile de Valera and was attended by personnel from Co. Dublin VEC, the Department of Justice, South Dublin County Council and Foróige.

Two new projects started in 2003, a pilot Teenage Health Initiative, funded by the Eastern Regional Health Authority, and the Tallaght Drugs Education Initiative funded by the Tallaght Drugs Task Force through Co. Dublin VEC.

In April, Tallaght District Council held an inter-club Talent Show, featuring Tallaght's stars of the future. At the same time, 20 Tallaght youth leaders commenced their studies in FETAC Level II 'Working with Young People and Work Experience' in IT Tallaght. This accredited course is run by staff from Tallaght Youth Service.

Summer 2003 saw a full programme with 'Breakaways' - community based week long programmes of workshops and recreational activities - in five areas of Tallaght. Summer courses included Hillwalking, 'Travelling Without Moving', Fishing, Cookery and 'Girls World'.

Tallaght Youth Information Centre was busy too, producing a guide for early school leavers entitled 'What Now?' and a wallet sized information guide of useful addresses called 'You Are Not Alone'.

The year was rounded off with a special Leaders' Christmas Party, celebrating the 21st Anniversary.



Irish soccer star Robbie Keane with members and leaders from And And And Foróige Club at Tallaght Youth Service's Community Spirit Awards 2003.

Young People Speak Out at Foróige Regional Conferences

JUSTIN DALY from *Ferbane Foróige Club, Co. Offaly and Foróige Reference Panel Member*, talks about his Foróige Club

"We meet every Saturday night and have 43 members. We play basketball, hockey, air-hockey, play music and just chat and chill out after the long week. At the moment the club is involved in an anti-incineration project on the proposed incinerator in our area."

Hundreds of Foróige Club Chairpersons and Secretaries attended regional conferences throughout the country last December. They met to identify issues affecting young people today, to make recommendations to both District Councils and the National Council of Foróige and to elect a 'Reference Panel' of young people to represent members views at national level. These conferences are held every year and form part of the democratic structure of Foróige. Gerry McDonald, Foróige's Head of Programmes and Training reports on this year's regional conference findings.

This year's regional conferences were a great learning experience for the leaders, members and staff of Foróige. The main issues identified by the conferences included underage drinking, drug abuse, peer pressure, bullying, underage sex and exam pressure.

danger of drugs and smoking, they seemed less concerned about the harmful effects of alcohol, saying that "a few drinks are fine, and make no difference". One worrying result was that some young people defined social drinking as "getting hammered."

Members stated that illegal drugs, such as cannabis, were widely available in most parts of the country and it was noted that many members had been offered drugs at some stage.

Many of the conferences stated that peer pressure was a big problem for young people and a key factor influencing them to take drugs and alcohol. They felt that in order to deal with this pressure they needed to increase their self-confidence so that they would be strong enough "to stand their ground".

Underage sex was also a prominent issue discussed by many of the regional conferences. There is a lot of sex on television and in teenage magazines and although this was not "real life" it created new standards of sexual behaviour. It influenced the way young people thought about and talked about sex and does add to the pressure they feel to engage in it.

Overall, the main recommendations of the regional conferences included: more outside speakers, workshops and education programmes to help young people deal with these issues and more opportunities to discuss them openly among themselves and with adults. It is the intention of Foróige to actively respond to these recommendations. As a first step a comprehensive report has been compiled on the findings of the Regional Conferences and will be distributed to all Foróige Clubs.

It was highlighted that Foróige has a highly significant role to play in enabling young people to develop the values, awareness and self belief to respond effectively to these pressures. Our organisational challenge is to involve more young people in safe social structures where bullying is unacceptable, where there is freedom to discuss issues openly and where each person's uniqueness is respected and actively encouraged.



Foróige club members from Co. Laois enjoying the Midlands Regional Conference in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Underage drinking was the issue identified most frequently. Members said that the problem was widespread. One of the major reasons they gave was that alcohol was seen as more socially acceptable than other drugs and is such a part of Irish culture. Some stated that "if parents drink or smoke, young people feel that it is okay". Although most of the young people realised the



Linda and Evelyn were one of Ireland's first Big Brother Big Sister matches.

Big Brother Big Sister in Action

Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) is a preventive mentoring programme that matches an adult volunteer to a young person who needs a little extra support. The volunteers are recruited from the communities in which the programme is offered and they are matched to young people based on their interests and personalities. Patty Boyle, BBBS Programme Co-ordinator in Galway, speaks to some of the people at the very heart of this programme.

Many people are drawn to volunteering with BBBS because it is a one-to-one relationship. "I got involved with BBBS because I believed that making a big difference to one person is more meaningful than making a small difference to a lot of people" says Big Brother, Barry Walsh. Barry has been matched with his little brother, Robert, for a year now and they have developed a great friendship. Robert says of his Big Brother, "I have a lot in common with him, it's nice to have another fella to talk to. I can confide in him, get advice and have fun, too. It's good to have a new friend outside my own family."

Linda has been matched to her little sister, Evelyn, for almost two years now. They were one of Ireland's first matches and are the longest together. In the beginning they based their get-togethers on such activities as going to the cinema, bowling and playing pool, but since their relationship has developed they both say that some of the best times they have are when they go for walks, have a chat over hot chocolate or just wander around the shops. Linda and Evelyn also enjoy the BBBS group activities, such as the treasure hunt, Christmas party and pottery night.

Linda got involved with BBBS because she thought the idea of a one-to-one relationship would be of great benefit to a young person and she finds it an extremely rewarding experience, "There is a feel good factor about giving something back to the community. I am there to listen when my 'little' has something to

say. I encourage her when she needs it, particularly when she has a bad day at school or at home. Equally there are times when I have had a bad day myself and I meet up with Evelyn and end up going home in great form!"

Linda has also found the level of support from her case manager, Elaine, fantastic. "It is great to know that Elaine is always there to discuss issues involving my match with Evelyn in total confidence."

The Big Brother Big Sister Programme is in the process of being extended into schools nationwide. Big Brother Big Sister school based mentoring is now being piloted in Claremorris, Co. Mayo and will be extended to six other schools in September.



Barry and his 'little brother' Robert have become great friends since being matched through the Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme.

Foróige Neighbourhood Youth Projects

New Research in Helping Young People Experiencing Stress to Access the Support They Need

By Dr. Pat Dolan, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway

All young people need social support in order to cope and deal with life stresses. The emotional and practical support provided by family, friends, school and community is central to a young person's wellbeing. At a very basic level, providing such support to young people either directly or indirectly, is part and parcel of the function of Foróige as a national youth work organisation. Understanding how best to provide such support is even more vital in the context of some young people, known to be experiencing difficulties and referred to Foróige's targeted community programmes, including Neighbourhood Youth Projects (NYP).

Emerging results from new research* which explores the social support needs of all young people attending Foróige/ Western Health Board NYP's in the towns and environs of Ballina, Boyle and Castlebar, show that the interventions of project staff can play an important role in both helping young people access the support they need from their social networks and can build their wellbeing and coping skills.

This in-depth tracking study (the first of its kind in Ireland) found that parents and friends were key sources of support to adolescents and that young people who perceived themselves as having most support had best mental health. Importantly from the perspective of the Foróige NYP's the study also found that young people's mental health levels and types of support was improving over time whilst on the project. These results are made all the more important in that the core function of NYP's is to intervene by meeting the expressed needs of young people who attend the service week in week out. Apart from giving a very positive message in relation to the worthiness of working in the community with young people in need of help, more specifically, it indicates the important part that programmes, like the NYP, can play in the lives of young people.

**The research study, which is still ongoing, was jointly commissioned by Foróige and the Western Health Board under the direction of Dr. Pat Dolan, Department of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway and the first phase of the study is for formal launch and publication in a research report in 2004.*



KATE FARRELL from Levittstown Foróige Club, Co. Kildare and Foróige Reference Panel Member, talks about what her Club gets up to on their club nights

"At the moment some members are looking at ecology, others are investigating the state of the local river to see if it's safe to swim in and we're also doing the Bóthar project. After the meeting we usually play board games, listen to music or chat, its great that we meet on a Friday night so we don't have to get up for school the morning after!"

Peer Education in Foróige Clubs

Peer Education is based on the belief that young people can be a positive influence on other young people. Foróige's Peer Education model was piloted by both Blanchardstown Youth Service and Tallaght Youth Service in 1997. In 2003, Foróige's South Leitrim Neighbourhood Youth Project was involved in compiling Ireland's first ever Peer Education guide. Now it is the turn of the Foróige club to gain from the proven benefits of the Peer Education Model and a pilot programme has been set up, in partnership with the Midland Health Board, in Castletown Foróige Club, Co. Laois. Fiona O'Connor, Foróige's Drugs Misuse Prevention Officer, gives an account on how the initial phase of this programme is going and how it can be especially effective in the field of drugs education.

The aim of the peer education programme in clubs is to train members in skills that will enable them to conduct drugs awareness sessions with other young people in clubs in their area. Drugs are an unfortunate fact of Irish life and are a huge issue for almost all young people. Often, young people are misinformed about drugs and their negative health implications. Peer education is an extremely effective way of combating this and this programme is about using positive influence to inform club members about the harmful effects of drugs.

Castletown Foróige club, Co. Laois, were the lucky group chosen to pilot Foróige's peer education in clubs initiative. A lively information session was held at which three young people from the peer education programme in South Leitrim gave a presentation on what they had learned from their experiences as 'Peer Educators'. Interviews were held and 18 enthusiastic candidates were

selected to participate in the initiative.

The programme got off to a great start with a residential in Castletown Pastoral Centre. The participants discussed their personal insights into drugs and how peer education may be used to inform other Foróige members of their harmful effects. Further training sessions happen twice a month and cover drugs awareness, listening and communication skills, assertiveness and self-esteem. The emphasis is on learning and building confidence through fun and interesting activities.

The next step for the peer education in clubs initiative is to hold a recognition event for the young 'Peer Educators' at which they will give their first drugs awareness presentation. Following from this, it is hoped that the 'Peer Educators' will run education sessions for other Foróige members in clubs in their area.

Patricia Mullanney, Club Leader with Castletown Foróige Club says that "the members are really enthusiastic about this programme and are enjoying it to the full - a testament of this being that they are turning up at 10.00am on two Saturday mornings a month for their training sessions! It is an exciting and worthwhile initiative and I am looking forward to seeing it extended into other clubs in the future."



The peer education group from Castletown Foróige Club, Co. Laois

Memories of Foróige

It takes time to realise the real impact that Foróige makes on the lives of its young members. The new friendships, the great fun, the sense of empowerment, the feeling of belonging and the first hand experience of democracy can have life changing effects. Here, some past members give an account of the life lessons that they learned from their time in Foróige.

Councillor Colm Burke, Lord Mayor of Cork and Former Foróige Member

The current Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Colm Burke, joined Berrings Foróige club (then Macra na Tuaithe), in Co. Cork, when he was 15 years old. He eventually became chairperson of the club, where he got his first experience of how to chair a meeting. "These are the same skills that I now use as I chair the fortnightly meetings of the 31 Cork City Councillors" says Councillor Burke "I also learned that leadership is not about saying what people want to hear, it's about what's right and sometimes being unpopular."

Colm Burke was elected to the Reference Panel and from that to the National Council and then to the National Executive of Foróige. "This was at a time of financial difficulty for the organisation, but also a very exciting time" recalls Councillor

Burke. "I got my first experiences of lobbying and politics from my time as a member of the National Executive of Foróige and I remember being in Leinster house meeting politicians on behalf of the organisation at just 18 years of age. I know it all sounds very serious, but there was lots of fun along the way too and I have carried the great memories of the summer gatherings with me always."

Councillor Colm Burke,
Lord Mayor of Cork

MICHELLE WHYTE from Corofin Foróige Club, Co. Galway and Foróige Reference Panel Member speaks about her active Foróige club

"This is my fourth year in Foróige and in that time I've been involved in stay awakes, fundraising for foreign missions, helping pick daffodils and then selling them for the Irish Cancer Society and organising for bus shelters to be built in our community. It's good to be able to give something back. We are also involved in a youth exchange with a group from Malta, we hosted them last year and this summer it's our turn to visit them - I can't wait! We also run lots of interclub events, such as discos, variety shows, dramas and sports days. "



Rachael Murphy, Youth Officer with Blanchardstown Youth Service and Former Foróige member

What strikes me as I look back on my time as a member of Ballinamuck Foróige club, Co. Longford, is not the great projects that the club did - and there were many - but rather, the sense of being able to make a difference. My experiences in the club provided me with a sense of social justice - wanting to change things for the better rather than accepting the way things are. Of equal importance, the club enabled me to have an analysis of social issues and provided me with practical skills to bring about changes - how to identify issues, explore the underlying causes, develop solutions and sharing tasks that need to be done to resolve the situation.

Being a member of Foróige proved to me the importance of working as a team and the responsibility to change things if we could. This sense of social justice and wanting to make a difference is a major influencing factor that continues to inform the choices I make in my life.

Conor McMorrow, Journalist and Former Foróige Member

Looking back on my time in Foróige conjures up many memories. I was in the Threemilehouse Foróige Club in Monaghan for a few years before going to college and have great memories of my time there.

As well as all the craic I had at Foróige discos and sporting events, looking back, I now realise that it meant a lot more than that. Having just finished college, I now work as a journalist in the new regional newspaper the 'Athlone Voice'. Much of my work as a provincial journalist involves reporting on council and residence association meetings. My time in Foróige gave me an invaluable understanding of the workings of a committee and I often find that the mechanics of councils and residence associations are similar to that of the Foróige club. So Foróige certainly helps you out later on in life.

I still keep a close eye on what local Foróige clubs are doing in the midlands and I have to admit that when I attended a local Foróige club meeting recently in the Athlone area I found it nostalgic and wished I could be back there! Foróige is a great organisation for young people and I would encourage all teenagers to get involved in it.

I have to say that the organisation can only survive if adults are willing to give of their time to become Foróige leaders. People like Mary McConnon, who was a leader in my Foróige club, are invaluable to the organisation for all the time they give voluntarily to young people. Hopefully the organisation can continue to get more Foróige leaders so that other young people can get as much enjoyment out of it as I did.





Kiltimagh Foróige Club, Co. Mayo

Kiltimagh Host Town Committee assigned the local Foróige club the task of decorating the town and arranging the entertainment for an Irish night in the local centre. The club made streamers, bunting and welcoming hands in the national colours of the visiting delegation, Puerto Rico. According to one of the clubs leaders "the town was awash with colour thanks to our streamers and bunting. It took a lot of work, but it was worth it. The show proved a huge hit and the members got great recognition for their contribution to the Host Town Programme."

A Partnership between Bandon Foróige Club and Bandon Garda Youth Diversion Project, Co Cork

Young people from the Bandon Garda Youth Diversion Project and members of Bandon Foróige club worked side by side to organise a Variety Night to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Months of preparation went into the production, with the young people themselves taking responsibility for everything from the initial concept to the big day itself.

The variety show was a huge success and raised a fantastic €3,000! The host town committee were so impressed with the groups efforts that they invited them to perform for the visiting delegation from Belarus.

Maeve O'Keeffe, a leader with Bandon Foróige club, recalls the "excitement of the young people and their willingness to get involved. The whole experience was an enormous success and the talent of the young people was brilliant....amazing."

Ballyroan Foróige Club, Co. Laois

Ballyroan Foróige Club were involved in organising the host town activities for the Indonesian delegation that came to Abbeylaxa, Co. Laois. The members learned about the countries customs,



Ballinfoile NYP staff enjoying the host town programme experience

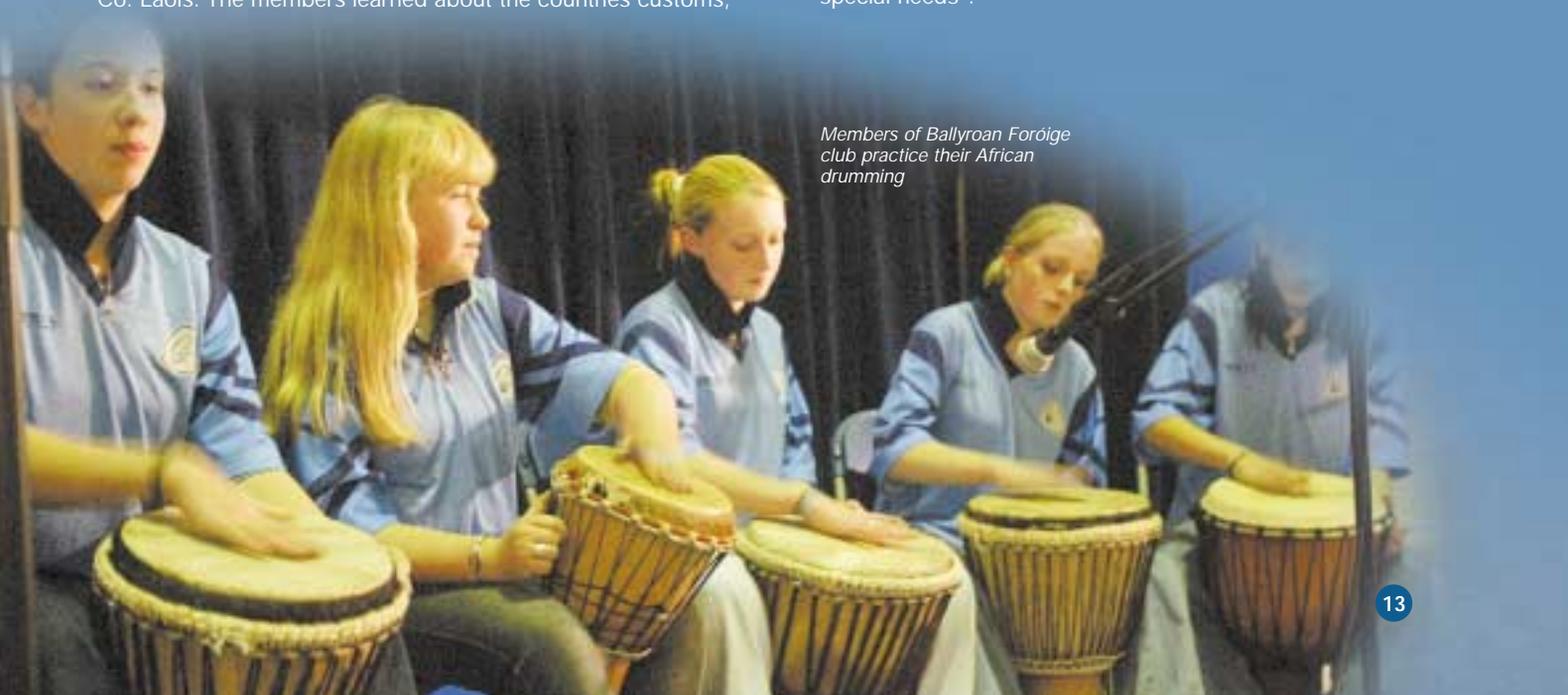
food and also learned a few key phrases in African as part of the preparation. They made banners and flags and a number of the members also learned and performed an African drum set for the Indonesian delegation. Carmel Moran, club leader, Ballyroan Foróige club, said that "taking part in the whole event gave members a great boost. The whole experience has made us all more aware of the needs of others in our community."

Ballinfoile Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP), Co. Galway

Staff and volunteers from Ballinfoile were involved with the Galway host town committee and took care of a large part of the transport needs of the Great Britain delegation. The NYP provided disability awareness training to volunteers, as well as holding awareness workshops with NYP project participants. Project participants preparing for the Galway World Cup got an opportunity to meet with the Great Britain soccer team. Project leader, Paul Tannian, described the week as "the best week I ever worked in my life... it brought home to me the true meaning of sport about being about fun, friendship, emotion and the unbelievable enjoyment it can bring"

Moynalvey Foróige Club, Co. Meath

The club organised a series of events to raise money to sponsor two athletes under the Support an Athlete Programme. Activities included a five mile sponsored walk, a cake-sale and a fun day. The club raised over €2,000 and according to Martin Moran, Club Leader "each member got involved in some small part and therefore felt part of the process of raising awareness of those with special needs".



Members of Ballyroan Foróige club practice their African drumming

SHANE GRANNELL from Monamolin Foróige Club, Co Wexford and Foróige Reference Panel Member tells us about his Foróige Club

"I first joined two years ago, mostly to meet new people, as we had just moved into the area. We all get on really well and work very strongly as a team. We won a Citizenship Award last year for organising a community concert and we all went to Dublin to collect our prize - it was great fun"

Representing Young People

Meet the four Reference Panel Members elected to The National Council of Foróige

The Foróige Reference Panel is made up of 20 Foróige Club Officers, elected at Regional Conferences all over the country. At their first meeting they elect four members to the National Council of Foróige. Foróige Youth Officer and former Foróige Reference Panel member, Rosie O' Brien, meets the four Young People, who will take an active involvement in the shaping of the future of the organisation over the coming year.



Róisín Chapman

Age: 17

Club: The Crib, Sligo Town

Favourite Sport: Gymnastics - I can do the splits and backflips and I hope to do a coaching course in gymnastics next year.

Hobbies and Interests: I have a part-time job as a waitress in a Chinese restaurant. I am learning how to play the guitar at the minute

Tell me about your Foróige club?

We meet every Monday night and we all have tea while having our meeting and then we usually play football, pool or our Playstation 2. Foróige is relatively new to the area so we have organised band days, discos and alternative entertainment nights on Thursday's to help promote the idea to other young people.

Why did you join Foróige?

I wanted something to do after school with my friends

What do you get out of being a Foróige member?

It's great fun and I have met lots of new people through Foróige

What has been your best Foróige moment so far?

I was very surprised about getting elected onto the reference panel and then when I was elected to the National Council of Foróige - I just couldn't believe it. I'm really looking forward to the challenge of it all.

Do you think the reference panel is a good idea?

Yes, we can all share our ideas and talk about the issues that make a difference to young people.

What are the main issues affecting young people that you wish to highlight during your time on the Reference Panel?

Drugs are a huge issue for young people and I think it's really important that young people know what to do if they're offered drugs.





Áine Geary

Age: 15.

Club: High Flyers Foróige Club, Co. Limerick.

Favourite TV show: Eastenders.

Favourite Sport: Camogie - I play midfield/half forward.

Tell me about your Foróige club?

We meet every Friday from 6.30-8.00. We play soccer, darts and uni-hoc and we are fundraising at the moment for a pool table. We organised a sponsored stay awake for Temple Street Hospital and raised €550 and we're going to Dublin on a day trip to present the cheque to them.

Why did you join Foróige?

To have a chance to meet with my friends and to do new things.

What do you get out of being a Foróige member?

It has really increased my self confidence, I would get up on stage now and I wouldn't have done that before. I've gotten involved in a lot more things than I would have done if I wasn't a member.

What has been your best Foróige moment so far?

Going bowling with the Reference Panel!

Do you think the reference panel is a good idea?

Yes, it gives the all Foróige members a say through different people, it gives you a chance to express what young people are feeling.

What are the main issues affecting young people that you wish to highlight during your time on the Reference Panel?

Drugs - it's a problem that almost everyone experiences in schools

Bullying - you see it almost everywhere and it's desperate, it happens between friends just bossing each other around as well as enemies.

Why did you join Foróige?

To meet people and to make more friends.

What do you get out of being a Foróige member?

It's brought me out of my shell, I'm not as quiet as I used to be. It's a break from the week every Friday night, it gives you something to look forward to. You get to meet different people outside of school.

What has been your best Foróige moment so far?

There was a disco in Ballycastle Foróige Club a few months ago that was the best disco ever!

Do you think the reference panel is a good idea?

It's a great idea, you get the opportunity to go as far as you can as a member of Foróige and you get to meet members from all over the country and make new friends - its also good for the C.V!

What are the main issues affecting young people that you wish to highlight during your time on the Reference Panel?

Bullying, as it's a big issue in clubs and it can be done so subtly that no one realises it. I also think that we would have a lot more power if all Foróige members came together as one voice, there's 14,000 members after all, surely something can be done if we're determined enough.



Eoin Stapleton

Age: 16.

Club: Paulstown Foróige Club, Co. Kilkenny.

Favourite TV show: Father Ted.

Hobbies and interests: Hurling and sleeping!

Tell me about your Foróige club?

We meet every Friday night and we discuss our plans for the next few weeks, we held a fashion show last year and it's becoming an annual event. We raised €6,000 at the last one. At the moment, we're helping our community raise funds to build a new community hall.

Why did you join Foróige?

Just for something to do

What do you get out of being a Foróige member?

Skills, especially how to communicate well with people. I got to walk the catwalk in our fashion show, so that was a new experience! We can decide what we want to do, we have a say in matters, in other youth clubs you don't.

What has been your best Foróige moment so far?

Being voted onto the reference panel

Do you think the reference panel is a good idea?

Yes, because you get to mix with members from other counties and hear other people's points of view - it should meet up more often and for longer

What are the main issues affecting young people that you wish to highlight during your time on the Reference Panel?

Drugs it's a big issue where I come from.



Aimee Mullkerns

Age: 16.

Club: Ardagh Foróige Club, Co. Mayo.

Favourite Band: Beyoncé.

Hobbies and interests: Swimming, playing the guitar and singing.

Tell me about your Foróige club?

We meet on Friday nights and we play sports, listen to music and chat. We had fundraising discos for club funds and for our community. We go to the cinema sometimes too and when we're finished in the hall we set up the chairs for bingo.

Linking Foróige Clubs and Projects

- The C.R.I.B. Youth Project & Health Café Leads the Way

EMMA SINCLAIR from Donegal town Foróige Club, Co Donegal and a Foróige Reference Panel Member talks about why she joined Foróige

"I joined Foróige to meet new people and to have some fun. I had heard good things about it from other young people in the town. Apart from Foróige, there is nothing else to do in Donegal Town after school."

The CRIB opened its doors in the heart of Sligo town in January 2003. It is a vibrant youth project, the name of which was chosen by the young people involved and stands for Choices - Responsibility - Ideas - Belonging. The centre is a safe place for young people to be themselves, meet friends, share concerns with each other and staff and access appropriate information and services to enable them to lead happy, healthy and connected lives. Anne-Marie Kelly, Project Leader, The CRIB Youth Project and Health Café, reports on how and why the CRIB is actively making the link between Foróige projects and clubs.

television. Parallel to this is a large sports hall. On the second floor of the building there is a staff office, the Area Manager's office, a small comfortable meeting room and a large room for group work.

Amongst the many objectives of the CRIB, each of which reflect Foróige's purpose of enabling young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society, is an active acknowledgment of voluntary work and its' contribution to project work. Early in the life of the project, it was noted that many of our objectives could best be met by using a combination of project work and mainline Foróige clubs. While some young people are best suited to a traditional project environment, others thrive in the freedom of a Foróige club and some gain most out a combined project and club service. This gave us the opportunity to give the young people of Sligo the best of both worlds and to tailor our service exactly to their needs.

Encouraging volunteers to get involved in the project was done by word of mouth, putting up a simple "help wanted" poster asking for volunteers and keeping in touch with those who showed any interest in getting involved. By giving volunteers a clear role the project has benefited from the involvement of 14 adult volunteers and the establishment of two fantastic Foróige clubs. One of our club members, Róisín Chapman, was elected onto both the Reference Panel and the National Council of Foróige this year.

In 2002, the North Western Health Board identified a need for a creative way to support young people who found themselves isolated from mainstream health and youth services. As a result of the identified need, the CRIB was created, a conjoint Project between Foróige, the North Western Health Board and the Diocese of Elphin. The CRIB provides a range of activities and developmental programmes for young people, including those at risk of isolation and homelessness, which will enable them to involve themselves in personal and community development.

The project building is located on the banks of the Garavogue River in the centre of Sligo town. On the first floor of the CRIB there is a fully equipped coffee dock complete with soft furniture, high stools, coffee tables and a large

Young people from The CRIB with Minister of State, Mr. Brian Lenihan T.D., at the official launch of the project in May 2003.



The C.R.I.B Youth Project & Health Café in Sligo



Introducing Cork Central District Council

September 2003 saw big changes for Foróige Clubs in Cork. What previously were known as Cork City District Council and Mid Cork District Council, have now been amalgamated into Cork Central District Council and two North Cork leaders groups.

Eimear Foley, Regional Youth Officer, Cork Central, introduces us to Foróige's newest District Council.

The reasons behind the amalgamation were quite practical in that we wanted to reduce the travel time for leaders and members to attend District Council meetings, training sessions and interclub events - but what has resulted was beyond our expectations and we now have one of Foróige's most vibrant and diverse District Councils. The amalgamation did pose challenges along the way, as both District Councils had different priority issues and had different ways of doing things, but with lots of hard work and a dedicated team of leaders we got there in the end.

In October 2003 the new officers were elected with a few pleasant surprises! Cork Central District Council is now the first Foróige District Council in Ireland to have asylum seekers on the committee. In June 2003, a Foróige summer programme was set up in Ashbourne Asylum Seekers Centre. This programme was an immediate success and resulted in a Foróige club being set up in the centre. This could not have been done without the hard work and dedication of the club's leaders; Salim Magani from Chad and Mirjana Babic from Croatia.

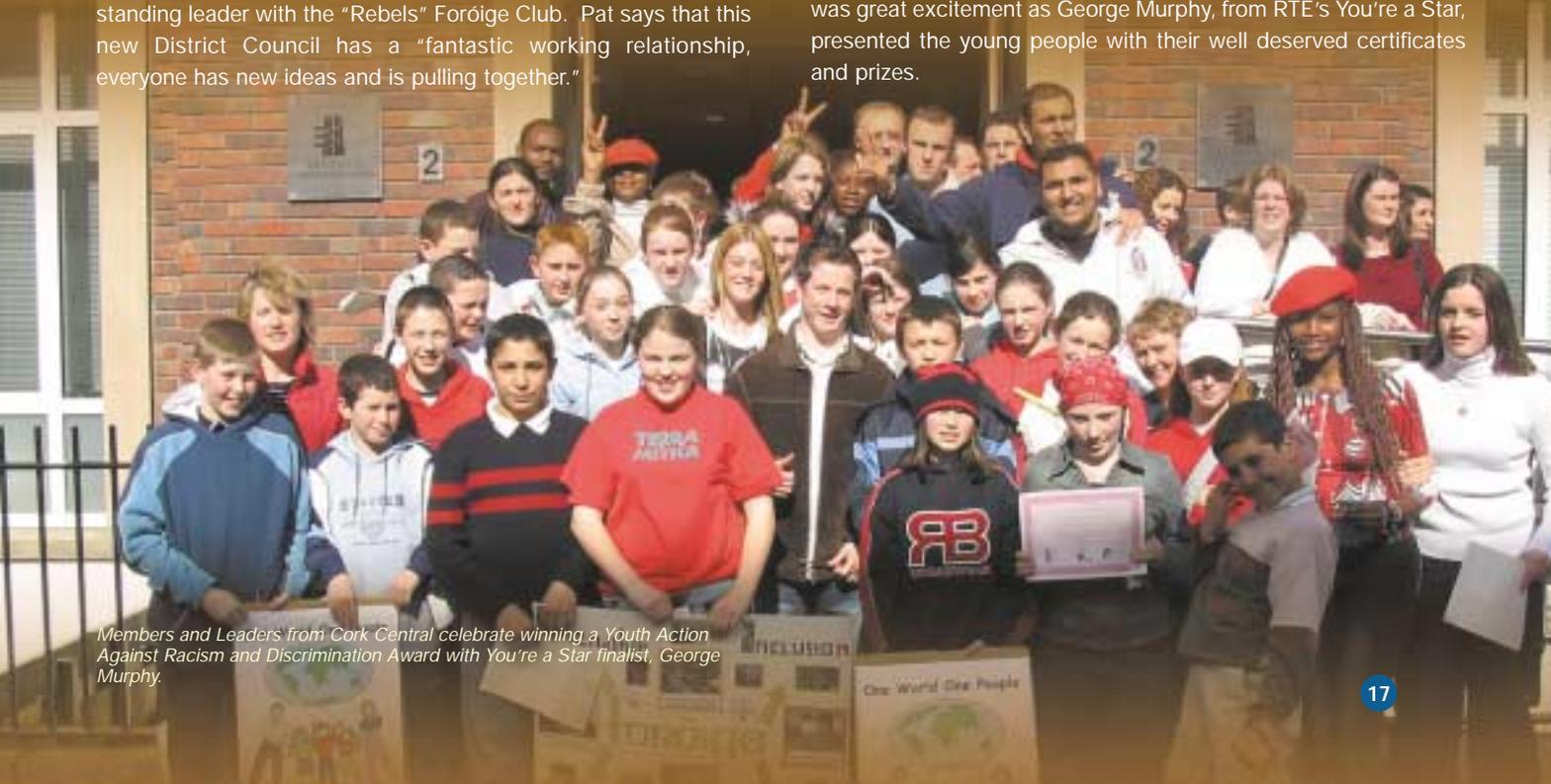
It came as no surprise when Salim was elected PRO and Mirjana was elected Treasurer of the new District Council. Also elected onto the committee as Chairperson was Pat Ridgeway, a long standing leader with the "Rebels" Foróige Club. Pat says that this new District Council has a "fantastic working relationship, everyone has new ideas and is pulling together."



Foróige leaders, Salim Magani, Ashbourne Foróige club and Ambrose McNamara, Whitechurch Foróige club, have been key figures in establishing Cork Central District Council.

Ambrose McNamara, who has been a leader with Whitechurch Foróige Club for over 2 years, was elected Secretary. Although Ambrose was involved with Mid Cork District Council last year, this is his first time as an elected officer. Ambrose says "the fact that we are an amalgamation of two District Councils offered a lot of challenges, but we listened to each other and were not afraid to change the way we think or do things. Our focus now is on planning the next Foróige year and making it our most active year ever."

Over the past few months Cork Central District Council has put together a Development Committee. This committee visits new clubs and actively assists in training leaders and club officers. Three Foróige clubs from the region have also recently won a Youth Action Against Racism and Discrimination Award for an interclub cultural awareness project that they completed. There was great excitement as George Murphy, from RTE's You're a Star, presented the young people with their well deserved certificates and prizes.



Members and Leaders from Cork Central celebrate winning a Youth Action Against Racism and Discrimination Award with You're a Star finalist, George Murphy.

New Ways of Foróige Leader Training



P.J. COEN from Corofin Junior Club, Co. Galway and Foróige Reference Panel Member sums up his best Foróige moment so far

"My best Foróige moment so far has been taking part in the Reference Panel weekend in Dublin - its been just brilliant. I got to know other members from all over the country and we discussed issues such as bullying, relationships, drugs and peer pressure. I'm delighted I got involved"



JANE O'DWYER from Ballaghaderreen Foróige Club, Co. Roscommon and Foróige Reference Panel Member talks about her Foróige Club

"We meet every Tuesday night and I am Chairperson of the club. We are preparing for a talent show at the moment, so we're all having great fun practicing our singing and dancing. The club organised a 'funday' for the younger kids of our area at Christmas at which we had arts and crafts, face painting and of course a visit from Santa!"

Foróige Leaders' Computer Training - Technological Learning by Doing

On a cool Saturday morning in February, 10 Foróige leaders set out from Wicklow, Meath, Tallaght and Galway to learn how to enhance their club programme by incorporating use of the latest design and animation technology. The Computer Clubhouse in Blanchardstown was the venue and the Clubhouse Co-ordinator, Gavin Byrne, introduced some high-end design and animation software that could be used on a club night with members. This training initiative was requested by the National Executive of Foróige.

Using technology in youth work is proving to be a powerful way of enabling young people to build confidence and self-esteem, while giving them valuable design skills. It is learning by doing; enabling them to become creators rather than consumers of modern day technology - but above all, it is fun!

Anne Doyle, leader with And And And Foróige club, Tallaght, Co. Dublin, says that the computer training was "a wonderful experience, I will definitely be able to use what I have learned in my club and I would love to see this type of training made available to both Foróige leaders and members. Our Trainer, Gavin, did a great job."

In the future it is hoped to build Foróige's capacity in technology learning and to give more and more Foróige members the opportunity to become competent users of technology.

'Energising Your District Council' - A Foróige Leader Training Initiative

A number of Foróige volunteers from all over Ireland attended National Training for Foróige leaders entitled "Energising Your District Council" in both Offaly and Sligo in February of this year. There are 30 voluntary led Foróige District Councils nationwide and their function is to provide a forum where leaders and members can exchange ideas, organise good county events that stimulate club activities and recruit new adult volunteers and young people into the organisation.

This year's national training aimed to help leaders to better organise their district council, so that it provides greater support structures for clubs and creates a vibrant Foróige at county level. This was achieved through a series of practical workshops involving exercises on themes such as organising and planning, problem-solving, teamwork and communications. It is hoped that this training will empower leaders to reinvigorate Foróige at county level.



Foróige Leaders get to grips with high end design and animation software at the Foróige Leaders' Computer Training Course.



Leaders from South Tipperary at the Foróige National Training Initiative for District Councils.

Commenting after the training, Ann Mullins, Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige, said "We had a great weekend and are going away with lots of ideas on how we can better meet our ultimate goal of enabling young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society. The workshop sessions this weekend were very productive with all the leaders taking an active part in the exercises and discussions and initiating debate on a range of issues."

performance pieces, involving members in everything from script writing to set and costume design. Monaghan District Council will hold a special drama event in mid April at which each club will showcase their drama presentations.

Drama is an easy and fun way of allowing members to explore issues and situations relevant to their lives. To be an effective learning experience it must focus on the needs of members and areas that are of interest to them. Once a theme is found, the next step is to ask the questions:

- WHERE** is the action taking place?
- WHO** are you in this situation?
- WHAT** are you doing?
- WHEN** is it taking place?

The who, what, where and when is the basic structure of all drama. If the group are working on relationships (always a good starting point!) then:

WHO are you?	Parent and teenager
WHAT are you doing?	Looking for permission to go to a disco
WHERE is it taking place?	In the kitchen
WHEN is it taking place?	In the evening after dinner

Drama is something that lots of young people enjoy. It can be a powerful learning experience and a great confidence builder. Many young people light up when they are given the opportunity to connect with a character and perform. My advice to you is to give it a go and get your act together!



Foróige Leaders from Co. Westmeath in their working group at this year's Foróige National Training Initiative for District Councils

Getting Your Act Together

The art of dramatic performance is alive and well in Foróige clubs in Co. Monaghan thanks to the Drama-In-Education Training Programme designed and administered by Aidan McQuillan, Project Leader, Monaghan NYP. Aidan reports on how this special training initiative went and gives some ideas of how to use drama as an educational tool in other Foróige Clubs.

In January and February 2004, a number of Foróige club leaders in Monaghan took part in a drama training programme. This was followed up with a day long drama workshop for club members. Each club then worked on developing their own original



Young People from Co. Monaghan Foróige at a dress rehearsal for their drama presentation.

The Foróige Citizenship Awards 2003

Celebrating the Positive Contributions of Young People to their Communities

EIMEAR LOGUE from Kincasslagh Foróige Club and Foróige Reference Panel Member, talks about her Foróige club

"We meet every Monday night and we have our club meeting first and then we have some fun activities. We also take part in many fundraising events during the year, like our sponsored swim on St. Stephens Day - it was very cold, but we raised lots of money and ended up having a great time!"

African drummers, musical magic and talented puppeteers entertained a full house in Dublin's City Hall on Friday, October 22nd 2003, when Mr. Michael Mc Dowell T.D, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, presented Foróige Citizenship Awards to nine excited Foróige groups. This special event served to highlight the valuable contribution that Foróige members make to their communities.

The Foróige Citizenship Awards, which are sponsored by The Wrigley Company Ltd., are open to Foróige's 413 Clubs and 80 Projects nationwide. At the awards ceremony each of the nine award-winning groups described the content and impact of their citizenship projects through special display stands and short stage presentations.

The Foróige Citizenship Awards form part of Foróige's Citizenship Programme. This is an out-of-school education programme which aims to help young people to develop the values and skills of good citizenship, to become aware of the

needs of their local community and to take action to bring about improvements. The programme enables young people to realise that they do have the power to make a difference in the world in which they live.

Mr. Michael McDowell T.D, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, paid tribute to the Foróige Citizenship Programme by saying that it offers "real hope for the future because it is grounded in real people taking real responsibility for some aspect of civic life and demonstrating that people can make a real difference."

Ann Mullins, Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige praised the winning groups by saying that "many communities have benefited from the great work of these young people, but what is equally important is the benefit to the young people themselves. They develop their self-confidence and see that they can influence what goes on and make an impact on their community."



ROUNDSTONE FORÓIGE CLUB, CO GALWAY researched, compiled and produced a drugs awareness booklet. They also designed and implemented a drugs education programme for the young people of their area.

EASKEY FORÓIGE CLUB, CO SLIGO

conducted a campaign to increase the number of litter bins in their area and to encourage people to recycle more. They produced an information booklet to support their campaign.



FORÓIGE CLUB 23, CO DUBLIN raised funds to sponsor a local athlete in this year's Special Olympics World Games. They chose their fund raising ideas very carefully so they could also be used to raise community spirit.



MONAMOLIN FORÓIGE CLUB, CO WEXFORD carried out a comprehensive survey of their local area to find out what they could do to improve the overall welfare of their community. On analysing the results, they decided to organise a community concert.



LOUGHLYNN FORÓIGE CLUB, CO ROSCOMMON undertook a project entitled "Learning from our Past to Shape our Future" which involved them researching, drafting, designing and funding a publication on the history of their local area.



MANIAX FORÓIGE CLUB, MOUNTMELICK, CO LAOIS initiated and headed-up a campaign to improve facilities for disabled people in their community. They examined their area in great depth and reported their findings in the local newspaper, on local radio, to local politicians and in the church bulletin.



DRUM FORÓIGE CLUB, CO. ROSCOMMON ran many fundraising events to raise money to sponsor a local athlete in the Special Olympics World Games 2003. They got the whole community involved in their campaign, which also focused on raising awareness of disability.



DONARD/GLEN FORÓIGE CLUB, CO. WICKLOW organised a cultural evening for visiting Special Olympics World Games Athletes from North Dakota, USA. This allowed the athletes to interact with the community and also functioned to raise community spirit.



THE ROSSES NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT, CO. DONEGAL sponsored an athlete in the 2003 Special Olympics World Games through the proceeds of a Talent extravaganza. They designed a comprehensive disability display for one of the shop windows in their town and even designed their host town flag for the opening ceremony!





Some of the original members of Dunmore Foróige club, Co. Galway, celebrate the club's 50th anniversary with Ann Mullins, Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige and Séan Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of Foróige.



Authors of the Foróige commissioned study 'Youth in a Changing Ireland', Joe Dunne (left) and John Sweeney from St. Patrick's College Drumcondra, present the first copy to Ann Mullins, Chairperson of the National Council of Foróige

Young People from the Carrigaline Youth Initiative, Co Cork, get ready to entertain the crowd at the project's official launch in February 2004.



Pictured at the launch of The Block Project, Portlaoise, are Representatives of An Garda Síochána, Foróige and the local community.



Leaders and Members from Levistown Foróige Club, Co Kildare, celebrating the re-establishment of their Foróige club.



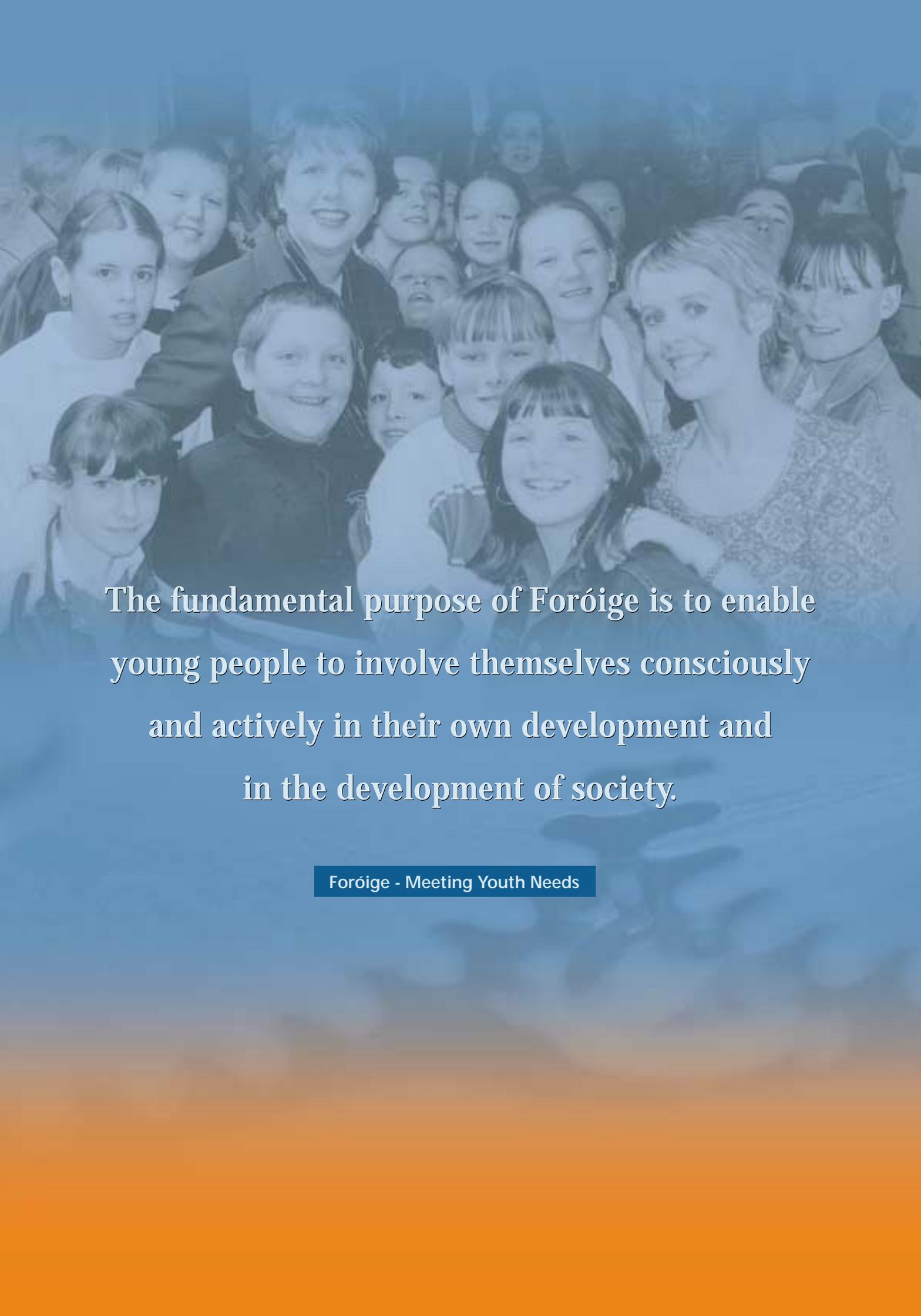
Foróige Leaders and Staff from Galway, Mayo, Roscommon and Dublin at National Leader Training in Sligo this year.



Mr Noel Ahern T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, officially launches Foróige's Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs, Policy and Guidelines.



Young people from Monaghan NYP, who represented Germany in this year's Galway World Cup football tournament.



The fundamental purpose of Foróige is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.

Foróige - Meeting Youth Needs

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c/o Ballyfermot Youth Federation,
41 Decies Road, Ballyfermot,
Dublin 10
Tel: (087) 8102771

ATHENRY ADOLESCENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Caheroyan Commercial Centre,
Caheroyan, Athenry, Co Galway
Tel: (091) 844500

BALLINCOLLIG ACTION PROJECT

5 Great Island Industrial Park,
Innismore, Ballincollig
Co Cork. Tel: (021) 4878682

BALLINFOILE AREA YOUTH PROJECT

60 Ballinfolle Park
Headford Road, Galway
Tel: (091) 760284
Fax: (091) 760339
E-mail: ballinfolleyp@eircom.net

BALLINFOYLE NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

60 Ballinfolle Park
Headford Road, Galway
Tel: (091) 760330
Fax: (091) 760339
Email: ballinfolleyp@eircom.net

BALLINA NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

Pearse Street, Ballina
Co Mayo. Tel: (096) 22012
Fax: (096) 22029
Email: nypballina@eircom.net

BALLYBANE ADVENTURE PROGRAMME

Ballybane Community Resource
Centre, Ballybane
Galway. Tel: (091) 768308

BALLYBANE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ballybane Community Resource
Centre, Ballybane
Galway. Tel: (091) 768297
Fax: (091) 768309
E-mail: ballybaneyouthdev@eircom.net

BALLYSHANNON/BUNDORAN NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

C/o Sacred Heart School
College Street
Ballyshannon, Co Donegal
Tel: (072) 22803 / 22804
E-Mail: ballyshannonnyp@eircom.net

BÁN PROJECT

Ballybane Community Resource
Centre, Ballybane
Galway. Tel: (091) 768299
Email: ban@oceanfree.net

BANDON JUSTICE PROJECT

C/o Youthreach
Station Road, Bandon
Co Cork. Tel: (023) 52002
Email: bandonyouthproject@eircom.net

BEARA PENINSULA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Square, Castletownbere
Co Cork. Tel: (027) 71885
Email: bearaydp@eircom.net

BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER PROGRAMME GALWAY

The GAF, 14 Francis Street
Galway. Tel: (091) 535375
Fax: (091) 534475

BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER PROGRAMME ROSCOMMON

C/o Castlereagh NYP
Main Street, Castlereagh
Co Roscommon
Tel: (094) 9622952
Fax: (094) 9622949

BLANCHARDSTOWN

Blanchardstown Youth Service
Blanchardstown Youth
Information Centre
Blanchardstown Early School
Leavers Programme
Blanchardstown Peer Education
Programme
INTEL Computer Clubhouse
Mulhuddart Community Youth
Project
Riversdale PESL Programme
Family Support WEB Programme
WEB Project (see also separate
listing)

Main Street, Blanchardstown
Dublin 15. Tel: (01) 821 2012
Fax: (01) 821 1144
Email: yicblanc@iol.ie

BLOCK Project

3 Church Street
Portlaoise, Co Laois
Tel/Fax: (0502) 61934
Email: blockproject@eircom.net

BOYLE NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

Patrick Street, Boyle
Co Roscommon. Tel: (079) 62488
Fax: (091) 62659
Email: boylenyp@hotmail.com

CARRICK-ON-SUIR NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

16 Kickham Street
Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary
Tel: (051) 645967
Fax: (051) 645227
carricknyp@eircom.net

CARRIGALINE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Carrigaline Community Complex,
Carrigaline, Co Cork
Tel: (086) 3837390

CASTLEBAR NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

The Mall, Castlebar
Co Mayo. Tel: (094) 9026760
Fax: (094) 9026790
Email: castlebarnyp@eircom.net

CASTLEBAR YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRE

Newtown, Castlebar
Co Mayo. Tel: (094) 9028674
Fax: (094) 9027873
Email: cyic@eircom.net

CASTLEREA ADOLESCENT PROGRAMME

Main Street, Castlereagh
Co Roscommon
Tel: (094) 9622952
Fax: (094) 9622949

BALLYBAY/COOTEHILL ADOLESCENT FAMILY HEALTH PROJECT

NEHB, Whitestar Complex
Market Street, Coothead
Co Cavan. Tel: (049) 5552069

dán PROJECT

Flat 101
St Teresa's Gardens, Donore Ave,
Dublin 8. Tel: (01) 4735332
Fax: (01) 4735007

DIME PROJECT

45-46 Hardwicke Street
Dublin 1. Tel/Fax: (01) 8874319
Email: dime@eircom.net

DONEGAL

Donegal North West Youth /
Community Information &
Development Programme
South Donegal Schools
Transition & Comhar Programme
Donegal Youth Information
Centre

Upper Main Street
Donegal Town, Co Donegal
Tel: (073) 23029
Fax: (073) 23050
Email: yicforoigedonegal@eircom.net

DRUGS MISUSE PREVENTION PROJECT

Foróige Head Office

FERRYBANK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ferrybank Community Centre
Ross Road, Waterford
Tel: (051) 833883

FORÓIGE CIRCLES (GALWAY)

The GAF, 14 Francis Street
Galway. Tel: (091) 535373
Fax: 091-534475

GAP PROJECT GLEN YOUNG ADULTS PROJECT

GLEN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
19 Comeragh Park, The Glen
Cork. Tel: (021) 506495

HAY JUSTICE PROJECT

15 St Agatha's Court
North William Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01-8560945

JAY PROJECT

18 Kiltalown Way, Jobstown
Dublin 24. Tel: (01) 4148118

KNOCKNACARRA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Community Rooms
Joyces Supermarket
Knocknacarra, Co Galway
Tel: (091) 580900
knocknacarrayouthproject@eircom.net

LEAP PROJECT

Earl Street, Longford
Co Longford
Tel/Fax: (063) 42515

LONGFORD COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE

6 Earl Street, Longford
Tel: (043) 45555 Fax: (043) 48105

LOOBAGH AREA YOUTH PROJECT

C/o Ballyhoura Development
Offices, Railway Road
Killmallock, Co Limerick
Tel: (063) 98877 Fax: (063) 20002

MAHON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MAY PROJECT

c/o Mahon Community
Development Project, Unit 7
Avenue de Rennes, Mahon
Cork. Tel: (021) 4350875

MONAGHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

MONAGHAN JUSTICE PROJECT
Ardroe House, Glen Road
Monaghan. Tel: (047) 71663
Fax: (047) 72709
Email: monaghannyp@eircom.net

MONAGHAN/ARMAGH DIVERSION AND EXCHANGE (MADE)

33 Park Street, Monaghan
Tel/Fax: (047) 72734

MULLAGHMATT/CORTOLVIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

134 Mullaghmart, Monaghan
Tel/Fax: (047) 77814

RAPHOE GARDA PROJECT

The Volt House, The Diamond
Raphoe, Co Donegal
Tel: (074) 73922

ROSSES NYP

The Old School House
Quay Road, Dungloe
Co Donegal. Tel: (074) 9561931
Fax: (074) 9561865
rossesnyp@eircom.net

SKY PROJECT

c/o Ballyhoura Development Ltd
Main Street, Charleville
Co Cork. Tel: (063) 21008

SOUTH LEITRIM NYP

Scoil Iosa, Leitrim Road
Carrick-on-Shannon
Co Leitrim. Tel: (071) 9620555
Fax: (071) 9622003
southleitrimnyp@eircom.net

ST. AENGUS STAY PROJECT

Scoil Iosa, Tymon North
Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 4624088

TALLAGHT

Tallaght Youth Service
Tallaght Youth Information Centre
Brookfield YPFSF Project
Drugs Education Initiative
Family Support STAY Programme
KEY Project
Peer Education Project
Peer Drugs Education Project
Springfield YPFSF Project
Teenage Health Initiative

Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: (01) 451 6322
Fax: (01) 451 6949
Email: tys@foroige.iol.ie

TEENAGE HEALTH INITIATIVE, BOYLE

C/o Boyle NYP, Patrick Street
Boyle, Co Roscommon
Tel: (079) 62488 Fax (079) 62659

TEENAGE HEALTH INITIATIVE, GALWAY

The GAF, 14 Francis Street
Galway. Tel: (091) 534473
Fax: (091) 534475

TEENAGE HEALTH INITIATIVE, MAYO

C/o Ballina NYP, Pearse Street
Ballina, Co Mayo
Tel: (096) 22012
Fax: (096) 22029

TRAMORE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

56 Marine Drive, Tramore
Co Waterford. Tel: (051) 390760

WEB PROJECT, BLANCHARDSTOWN

Buzzardslow House
Mulhuddart, Dublin 15
Tel: (01) 822 6163
Fax: (01) 821 0496
Email: webproject1@eircom.net

WEST LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE

West Limerick Resources
St Mary's Road, Newcastle West
Co Limerick. Tel: (069) 62222

WESTPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

St Anne's Boxing Club
James Street Carpark
James Street, Westport
Co Mayo. Tel: (098) 29218
Fax: (098) 29217

WHITECHURCH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

YEW PROJECT
Youth Project Room
Scoil Mhuire, Ballyboden
Dublin 16. Tel/Fax: (01) 493 5555
Fax: (01) 4954694
Email: w_church_ydp@hotmail.com

WAY PROJECT

Unit 1, 9-10 Lower Mall
Wicklow Town
Tel/Fax: (0404) 64782 / 64783
wayproject@eircom.net

YOUTH IN ACTION PROJECT, CROOM

c/o Ballyhoura Development Ltd
8 Bridge Street, Croom
Co Limerick. Tel: (061) 397957
Fax: (061) 602030
E-mail: youthinactioncroom@hotmail.com

**FORÓIGE HEAD OFFICE**

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12
Tel: (01) 450 1122. Fax: (01) 450 1941.
Email: foroige@eircom.net
Website: www.foroige.ie